

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, TPHYUR

SUBJECT: NOAA MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH

1. THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS IN THE BERING SEA AND ADJACENT COASTAAREAS USING THE NOAA SHIP DISCOVERER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S RESEARCH VESSEL, MOANA WAVE. OPERATIONS WILL BEGIN ON 17 AUGUST AND END ON 9 OCTOBER 1976.

2. THE RESEARCH IS PART OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM, (OCSEAP), A RESEARCH

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PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND

MANAGED BY NOAA'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES. THE PROGRAM COMMENCED IN SPRING OF 1975 AND WILL CONTINUE APPROXIMATELY 5 YEARS INVOLVING SEVERAL NOAA VESSELS AND NOAA CHARTERED VESSELS. THE PURPOSE OF OCSEAP IS TO (1) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE ALASKA OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASE AREA; (2) DEFINE THE PROBABLE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF OIL EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, STORAGE, AND TRANSSHIPMENT ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF; (3) REFINE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF KEY ECOLOGICAL DYNAMIC PROCESSES; AND (4)

PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A PRIORI PREDICTIVE OR DIAGNOSTIC MODELS OF THE ECOSYSTEM RESPONSE TO LOADING BY PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM BY-PRODUCTS.

3. NINETEEN CURRENT METER ARRAYS WILL BE DEPLOYED BY THE DISCOVERER. THE ARRAYS WILL REMAIN ON STATION FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. A CTD CAST WILL BE TAKEN AT EACH CURRENT STATION. THERE WILL BE 105 CTD STATIONS OCCUPIED BY THE VESSELS. AT EACH STATION A CURRENT METER WILL BE LOWERED AND OBSERVATION TAKEN FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. THE COORDINATES OF THESE STATIONS ALONG WITH CHARTS INDICATING THE LOCATIONS ARE BEING FORWARDED VIA AIRGRAM.

4. RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE RESEARCH AND SHOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DISCOVERER FOR SIX AND ON THE MOANA WAVE FOR TWO. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE LATER IF THE RUSSIANS EXPRESS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. COPIES OF ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE PROVIDED IF REQUESTED.

5. DISCOVERER'S MASTER IS CAPTAIN CLINTON D. UPHAM WITH A CREW OF 79 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 10. MOANA WAVE'S PRESENT CAPTAIN IS WILLIAM H. O. KING WITH A CREW OF 11 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 6.

6. DISCOVERER CONTINUOUSLY MONITORS 500 KHZ, 2182 KHZ, AND 13179 KHZ; AND CHANNELS 16 AND 13 VHF. MOANA WAVE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORS 2182 KHZ AND CHANNEL 16 VHF.
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7. FYI: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PRESENT THE ABOVE INFORMATION, WHICH IS UNCLASSIFIED, TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANNOUNCING NOAA'S INTENTION TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH AND INVITING THEM TO PARTICIPATE. THE APPROACH SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT APPEAR TO BE A REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH. ALL STATIONS ARE AT LEAST 14 NM

OFF THE SOVIET COAST; HOWEVER, THE MOORED CURRENT METERS MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE SOVIETS AS CONSTITUTING CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH, WHICH DISAGREES WITH THE US DEFINITION OF SHELF RESEARCH. US POLICY IS THAT MERELY ANCHORING A RESEARCH INSTRUMENT TO THE BOTTOM DOES NOT CONSTITUTE SHELF RESEACH AND PERMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED UNLESS BOTH CRITERIA CITED IN ARTICLE 5-8 OF THE 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION ARE MET, TO WHICH BOTH US AND USSR ARE PARTIES, THAT IS (1) RESEARCH IS CONCERNING THE SHELF AND (2) RESEARCH IS UNDERTAKEN ON OR IN THE SHELF. IN OUR VIEW CURRENT METER RESEARCH DOES NOT CONCERN THE SHELF. IF THE SOVIETS RAISE OBJECTIONS THE PROJECT CAN BE REASSESSED. END FYI. KISSINGER

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